

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge that claims 18-36 are allowable if amended to be in independent form and to correct the errors identified. The above amendments, discussed more particularly below, accomplish this.

Claims 16, 17, 24 and 25 have been amended to correct the spelling of the word "dicyandiamides." Claim 12 has been cancelled as redundant to claim 10. Claim 7 has been amended to depend on claim 2, as suggested, and claim 1 has been amended as suggested.

Claims to Coating Formulations

The claims coating formulations (claims 1-11 and 13-17) have been rejected as anticipated by or obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,149,747 (Lorenz, et. al.) with reliance on secondary references.

A novel feature of the coating formulations claimed is that the epoxy curing agent is coemulsified with at least one thermoplastic resin and/or wax. Lorenz et al. '747 discloses coating formulations which can comprise epoxy resins and polymerization initiators (cross-linkers) and also discloses coating formulations that can comprise the solids in emulsions. However, there is no indication that the epoxy curing agent (cross-linker) is emulsified with a thermoplastic resin or wax binder.

Lorenz, et. al. '747 does not specifically teach that emulsions of epoxy curing agent and thermoplastic resin and/or wax are suitable and provides no indication how an emulsion of such a mixture of solids would be prepared. Coemulsifying the epoxy curing agent and thermoplastic resin and/or wax is not an inherent property in that an emulsion of the two solids can be prepared by combining a separate emulsion of epoxy curing agent and a separate emulsion of thermoplastic resin and/or wax. Therefore the disclosure at column 7, lines 62-65 does not inherently anticipate the coating formulations of claims 1-11 and 13-17.

There is no mention of coemulsifying any of the solids within coating formulations of Lorenz, et. al. '747. More particularly, there is no indication the thermoplastic resins disclosed at column 6, lines 17-35 of Lorenz, et. al. '747 or the waxes disclosed at column 5, line 49 to

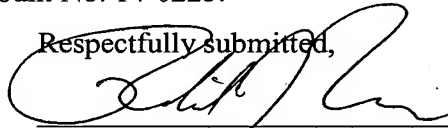
column 6, line 7 of Lorenz, et. al. '747 can be coemulsified with other components, such as an epoxy resin curing agent. There is also no mention of coemulsifying the polymerization initiator (cross-linker) with another component at column 6, lines 36- 60.

Lorenz et al. '747 teach that to enhance compatibility, i.e., minimize separation, it is preferable for the binder resin and wax particles to be submicron size particles (see column 7, lines 18-21). Lorenz et al. '747 further teach that to obtain emulsions of binder resins which are insoluble or poorly soluble in water, the binder resin is typically ground to submicron size. (see column 6, lines 33-35). The disclosure of Lorenz et al. '747 teaches the importance of grinding the solid components to obtain compatibility. There is no hint that these solids be coemulsified.

When considering the teachings of Lorenz et al. '747 as a whole, there is no direction or motivation to coemulsify the epoxy resin curing agent with a thermoplastic resin and/or wax. Therefore, Applicants submit the coating formulations are novel and unobvious in view of the teachings of Lorenz et al. U.S. 6,149,747, either alone or in combination with the secondary references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0225.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard J. Traverso, Reg. No.: 30,595
Representative for Applicant(s)

Douglas S. Foote, Law Vice President
NCR
Intellectual Property Section, Law Department
1700 South Patterson Blvd., WHQ5E
Dayton, Ohio 45479-0001

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